

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

yes, any media purchased currently you are allowed to reproduce for personal use, at the same quality that you purchased it, this would prevent some or perhaps any reproduction at the same digital quality, virtually at the whim of the broadcaster, or distributor.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes, in fact they are targeted specifically to deny digital reproduction at the same quality to other devices, they may say that you can still reproduce at lower quality, but thats the same as saying you aren't allowed to take photographs, only sketches...this isn't a courtroom.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes, dvd recording and video capture devices already proliferate the market, these devices will have to be replaced (many only released this year). In addition to the digital tvs and perhaps set top boxes would have to be replaced. All in all at great expense to the consumer. And with hinderence to the fcc's mandate for digital transmissions.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes, the technology will most likely be protected by the dmca, which is another problematic point. This means that in order to use the technology you must license it, (illegal to reverse engineer), so the tech would have to be developed by a standards committee that is not owned or associated with the industry (and is large enough and well represented in a fashion noncondusive to corruption). Because this is an encryption standard (again DMCA prevents reverse engineering), it will be illegal to produce and disruptive, competitive products as well.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

All current digital recording and viewing media would have to be replaced, the market is too large and far reaching to warrant a replacement of every cd-burner, hard drive, dvd-burner, digital tv, set top box, dv camcorder, and computer system currently on the market, all of which will qualify is illegal for and incapable of legal reproduction of the new format.

Other Comments:

What ever solution does go into place for rights management on future broadcast and other digital media, this is not it. It is well meaning but ultimately completely impossible to implement without be disruptive to the entire industry and customer populace.